ANNOUNCEMENT re P. W. D. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have to make an announcement and also to impart a piece of information. Government have been considering the question of enabling public opinion to be focussed upon the work of the Transport Department. I find from the cut motions given in regard to the Transport Department and the general interest evinced in that Department and its finances and operations, that there is quite naturally a very large amount of interest taken in that Department and in its future. Much of the difficulty that arises in this connection is undoubtedly from the circumstance that honourable members and many members of the public are not aware of the actual working of the Transport Department and the conditions surrounding that Department and also of the pros and cons of the various steps which are being taken. Fortified by the useful experience which Government have gained in regard to the P. W. D. Advisory Committee, whose work has been very helpful to the Government and the public, Government have decided to appoint a Committee to advise the Transport Department. The functions of the Committee will be to deal by way of giving advice with questions of principle relating to the working of the Transport Department, such as, let us say, purchase of second hand buses or new buses, the question of fuel, and the questions of routes and conveniencs for passengers *e. g.* resting places, public comfort stations, arrangements regarding luggages, seating arrangements, defects in the design of cars etc. So, practically, a comprehensive help will be afforded to the Head of the Department and to the Government as to the working of the transport system in many of its details. It must be clearly understood that, firstly, the functions of that Committee will be purely advisory like those of the P. W. D. Advisory Committee, though Government, as far as possible, will follow the advice of that Committee. Secondly, the Committee will be entitled to give general advice on the principle of recruitment; but in the nature of things, individual appointments or individual recruitments will not be within the purview or scope of the labours of the Committee. In fact it will be inexpedient for the Committee to interfere in any individual or personal matters like appointments, promotions and individual grievances or complaints.

The idea of Government is to constitute that Committee with seven persons, two to be selected from this Honourable House and one from the other House of the Legislature. Some special interests may also have to be provided for and therefore Government reserve to themselves the right of nominating four others and the Committee will begin its operations as soon as possible. This is the announcement that I wanted to make.

The piece of information which I wanted to give and which might be of some interest to the honourable members of this House is that the Government of India, in its Medical Department, has recently been bestowing attention upon our china clay and that they have now come

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[President]

to the conclusion that kaolin is useful for dealing with such ailments as dysentery and troubles due to food poisoning. They have issued a communique on the subject and I felt that the honourable members of this House would be glad to know that fresh and important use had been found for our china clay. As the Government of India communication states the supply of our kaolin is inexhaustible honourable members should also note that what is called antiphlogistine is mainly composed of refined china clay.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, is it very good for internal use ?

PRESIDENT: Yes, especially in cases of food poison.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND XII—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage—(*contd.*)

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR: Sir, in closing my remarks yesterday, I tried to explain to the House that the fund allotted for the relief work of the unemployed labourers at Alleppey is not proposed to be confined to works in and near Alleppey but a proper distribution of the fund will be made in consultation with the members of the committee. In fact, in the course of the deliberations of that Committee of which Mr. Narayana Pillai, Executive Engineer, Kottayam is the Chairman, the members suggested that officers like the Executive Engineer, Alwaye, or the Executive Engineer, Quilon, may also be co-opted into the Committee in order to go into the question of relief works at Vaikom and at places near Quilon. Therefore the Relief Committee may have to co-opt members. The question of co-opting members will naturally come up before the Government in due course and they will be passing necessary orders on the suggestions made by the members of the unemployment Relief Committee.

Among the works which have been proposed preliminarily to be taken up for the relief of the unemployed at Alleppey are some of those suggested by Mr. Narayana Kurup, that is, particularly, the road between Thiruvella and Ambalapuzha, the opening of the Pulayanvazhi road, Arattukadavu road and some other roads and the deepening of the Alleppey-Shertallai canal. Incidentally, Mr. Narayana Kurup has suggested the formation of a separate sub-division for the conduct of the work. The suggestion will be remembered, but it appears to me that in the case of the works which are distributed all along the coastal regions it will be easier for the respective Sub-division officers to deal with the additional works than for a single officer with an extensive jurisdiction. I however feel that it will be necessary, as works go on, that a few Section officers or Supervisors may have to be put in charge of the works in places where such works are undertaken in an intensive scale and therefore the need for increasing the staff and making the work top-heavy is not great unless these works cannot be conducted

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